



# THE MARKET HOUSE



## *Site of a Shootout*



### CAROLINAS CAMPAIGN

On Saturday morning, March 11, 1865, a brief skirmish took place here at the Market House as Confederate forces evacuated Fayetteville while Union Gen. William T. Sherman's army entered the town. A rear guard detachment under Gen. Wade Hampton surprised a Union cavalry patrol after one of



**Gen. William T. Sherman**  
Courtesy Library of Congress



**Gen. Wade Hampton**  
Courtesy Library of Congress

the Federals came around the corner from Russell Street and then fired at Hampton on the south side of the Market House. In the ensuing engagement, several Union cavalrymen were killed or captured. Within a few hours, Hampton's forces had departed, burning the Clarendon Bridge behind them.

To save the building from destruction, Mayor Archibald McLean and a majority of the seven town



**Market House engagement, from Fayetteville, North Carolina: A Pictorial History, by Weeks Parker.**

commissioners went to Sherman's lines on March 11 and negotiated the peaceful surrender of the town. During Sherman's occupation of Fayetteville, Federal soldiers flew a United States flag from the Market House cupola.

After the Civil War, the Market House remained an important part of the civic and economic life of Fayetteville, functioning as an open market into the 20th century. The upstairs rooms still serve as meeting space.



**Market House and square with mules and wagons, late 19th century.**  
Courtesy North Carolina State Archives

On this site in 1789, in a building called the State House, the North Carolina General Assembly met in the upper chamber to ratify the U.S. Constitution, cede the state's western territory to form Tennessee, and charter the University of North Carolina. The Great Fire of 1831 destroyed the old State House, and the present Market House was built on the same site in 1832. It was Fayetteville's economic and civic center, with an open market in the arcade and a town hall on the floor above. Occasionally, estate sales of small numbers of slaves occurred here.



**Old State House, 1789.**